

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 IO-14 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SAB-01 SAM-01 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /134 W

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R 270950Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1174

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

/AMEMBASSY PARIS 4272

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 11588

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG XF

SUBJ: MFA OFFICIAL ON ME

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

1. SUMMARY. IN RUNDOWN ON ME (JULY 25) MFA DEPUTY CHIEF NEAR EAST COUNTRIES DIVISION PYRILIN MADE FOLLOWING MAIN POINTS. BREZHNEV - SADAT SUMMIT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE BEFORE VERY END OF YEAR. SOVIETS ASSESS JULY 17 EGYPTIAN-JORDANIAN COMMUNIQUE TO BE MODIFICATION IN JORDAN'S FAVOR OF ARAB POSITION ON PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION. SOVIETS EXPECT ARAFAT TO VISIT MOSCOW IN AUGUST, BUT DATE HAS NOT YET BEEN FIXED. ARAFAT WILL COME UNDER UNOFFICIAL AUSPICES. GENEVA CONFERENCE WILL NOT OPEN BEFORE SEPTEMBER, BUT SOVIETS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT REPORT
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THAT HUSSEIN WOULD LIKE TO DELAY RECONVENING MEPC. SOVIET

ASSESSMENT OF THE IRAQI-KURDISH PROBLEM FORESEES NO EARLY END TO THE CONFLICT. END SUMMARY.

2. PYRLIN DIRECTED QUESTION ABOUT SOVIET-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS TO POSTPONEMENT OF FAHMY VISIT AND SPECULATION ABOUT TIMING OF A SOVIET-EGYPTIAN SUMMIT. FAHMY IS EXPECTED IN OCTOBER, AND IF TALKS PRODUCED POSITIVE RESULTS, SUMMIT COULD FOLLOW. TIMING OF BREZHNEV-SADAT MEETING WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE BEFORE THE END OF DECEMBER. BREZHNEV'S SCHEDULE IS VERY FULL. HOWEVER, AS EMBOFF KNEW, USSR HAS THREE LEADERS AND THIS MIGHT ALLOW FLEXIBILITY IN ARRANGING A MEETING.

COMMENT: WHILE EGYPTIANS, SO FAR AS WE KNOW, ARE THINKING IN TERMS OF A BREZHNEV-SADAT MEETING, PYRLIN'S OBLIQUE REFERENCE TO OTHER LEADERS (FIRST WE HAVE HEARD IN THIS CONTEXT) MAY SUGGEST SOVIETS INTEND TO PROPOSE THAT SADAT MEET WITH KOSYGIN OR PODGORNYY INSTEAD OF BREZHNEV. IN RETURN MOSCOW MIGHT WELL SUGGEST EARLY MEETING IN CAIRO. END COMMENT.

3. ASKED ABOUT JULY 17 JORDANIAN-EGYPTIAN COMMUNIQUE, PYRLIN SAID SOVIETS REGARD RESULT OF SADAT-HUSSEIN TALKS AS SUCCESS FOR THE KING ON KEY ISSUE OF PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION. COMMUNIQUE MODIFIED ARAB SUMMIT DECISION WHICH RECOGNIZED PLO AS SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. SOVIETS ASSUME TEXT REFLECTS EGYPTIAN ACCEPTANCE OF HUSSEIN'S RIGHT TO REPRESENT PALESTINIANS ON BOTH BANKS OF THE JORDAN. THIS APPEARS TO MOVE TOWARD MEETING PREVIOUS JORDANIAN OBJECTIONS ABOUT PLO ROLE AND TO REVIVE KING'S PLAN FOR A FEDERATED KINGDOM. PYRLIN SAID PALESTINIAN REACTION TO THE COMMUNIQUE, ACCORDING TO REPORTS FROM THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN BEIRUT, WAS EXTREMELY NEGATIVE. SOVIET AMBASSADOR REPORTED THAT ARAFAT HAS REJECTED AN INVITATION TO CAIRO TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH SADAT, AND OTHER PALESTINIAN LEADERS ARE TAKING VERY TOUGH POSITION. ASKED WHETHER SOVIETS HAD ANY REACTION FROM SYRIA, PYRLIN SAID NO, BUT IT WAS EXPECTED DAMASCUS WOULD SUPPORT THE PALESTINIANS.

4. ON ARAFAT VISIT TO MOSCOW, PYRLIN SAID PLO LEADER IS EXPECTED IN AUGUST UNDER AUSPICES OF AFRO-ASIAN SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE. (COMMENT: JORDANIAN EMBOFF TELLS US ISSUE OF CONFIDENTIAL

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SPONSORSHIP IS WHAT IS HOLDING UP FINAL AGREEMENT ON DATE. ACCORDING JORDANIAN, ARAFAT IS PRESSING FOR OFFICIAL INVITATION.) SOVIETS WILL BE SEEKING ARAFAT'S VIEWS ON PLO PARTICIPATION IN GENEVA CONFERENCE AND NEW PALESTINIAN PROGRAM. IN REGARD TO LATTER, PYRLIN SAID HE THOUGHT PALESTINIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS HAD STRENGTHENED ARAFAT'S POSITION AND PROGRAM ADOPTED BY THE CONGRESS WAS MORE REALISTIC. PROBLEM NOW WAS WHAT PLO PLANNED TO DO TO IMPLEMENT IT.

5. PYRLIN TOOK FAIRLY RELAXED LINE ON GENEVA CONFERENCE. HE SAID SOVIETS EXPECTED IT TO RECONVENE IN SEPTEMBER FOLLOWING ARAB SUMMIT MEETING. HOWEVER, SOVIETS HAD REPORT THAT KING HUSSEIN WAS ADVOCATING POSTPONEMENT OF THE CONFERENCE UNTIL LATER IN THE FALL, POSSIBLY TO NOVEMBER. PYRLIN DID NOT THINK THIS WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA, BUT ARAB SUMMIT WOULD HAVE TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM.

6. ASKED ABOUT SITUATION IN IRAQ, PYRLIN SAID IRAQI-KURDISH CONFLICT WAS CONTINUING, ALTHOUGH LEVEL OF FIGHTING HAD DIMINISHED. BARZANI HAD TAKEN HIS "CLIQUE" TO THE MOUNTAINS, AND BAGHDAD'S EFFORTS TO END THE RESISTANCE WERE NOT MAKING MUCH HEADWAY. PYRLIN SAID SOVIETS CONTINUED TO FAVOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE CONFLICT. MOSCOW HAD URGED BAGHDAD TO USE RESTRAINT. BUT PRESIDENT BAKR'S GOVERNMENT WAS IN A DIFFICULT POSITION AND THERE SEEMED LITTLE CHANCE OF COMPROMISE WITH BARZANI. WITHOUT MUCH ENTHUSIASM PYRLIN SAID SOVIETS CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT'S POSITION AND BELIEVE THAT BAGHDAD'S AUTONOMY PLAN REPRESENTS A SURE EFFORT TO REACH A COMPROMISE SOLUTION TO THE KURDISH PROBLEM. NONETHELESS, THERE APPEARED LITTLE POSSIBILITY OF AN EARLY RESOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT.

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